

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure which is on the attached sheet.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention relates to data networks, to nodes making up parts of data networks, and to information relating to the characterisation of paths taken by data travelling between nodes in the networks. Path characterisation information is arranged to be conveyed to nodes such that it may be used by nodes subsequently forwarding data. In particular the invention relates to nodes receiving such path characterisation information from upstream nodes, deriving therefrom information indicative of characteristics of a path downstream of said nodes, and using such information to make informed decisions such as routing decisions when forwarding data onward in data networks.